Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /119 R

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IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: UNDP REPORT

ON ITS FUTURE ROLE

1. SUMMARY: THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR WILL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE NEXT GOVERNING COUNCIL ON QUOTE THE FUTURE ROLE OF UNDP END QUOTE, A TOPIC WHICH PROMISES TO OCCUPY CENTER STAGE THROUGHOUT THE SESSION AND BE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE U.S. IS PREPARING ITS OWN ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PROBLEMS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES TO GUIDE THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL. WE SEEK THE VIEWS OF POSTS, RESREPS, AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN PREPARING THIS ANALYSIS. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO INITIATE DISCUSSION WITH THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AND, AT THEIR DISCRETION, WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

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- 2. AT THE LAST GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) SESSION, THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO SUBMIT TO THE 24TH GC SESSION (JUNE 13 JULY 1, 1977 IN GENEVA) A DETAILED STUDY ON QUOTE THE FUTURE ROLE OF UNDP END QUOTE. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT ELICITED STRONG, AND SOMETIMES NEGATIVE, RESPONSES FROM MANY GC MEMBERS, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT MAY CHALLENGE MANY OF THE ASSUMPTIONS AND PRACTICES ON WHICH UNDP CURRENTLY OPERATES.
- 3. THE UNDP STUDY IS NEARING COMPLETION AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE DISTRIBUTED TO GC MEMBERS. IN ANTICIPATION OF
 SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH WILL BE ADDRESSED, THE DEPT IS
 PREPARING ITS OWN BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE WE SEE FOR
 UNDP IN THE 1980'S AND THE BEST WAY FOR UNDP TO ACHIEVE
 THOSE OBJECTIVES. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE REACTION
 OF RESREPS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO MAIN THEMES OF UNDP
 STUDY AS WE CONSIDER THEM FOR OUR OWN ANALYSIS.
- 4. EVEN THOUGH UNDP'S STUDY HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED, THE DEPT BELIEVES ACTION ADDRESSEES (ALMOST ALL OF WHICH ARE GC MEMBERS) MAY WISH TO SOLICIT VIEWS ON THE REPORT FROM EITHER THE UNDP RESREP OR THE HOST GOVERNMENT.(WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE RESREP MAY BE MORE KNOWLEDGE-ABLE AND HELPFUL AT THIS EARLY STAGE. HE MAY ALSO BE HELPFUL IN INDICATING THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MOST CONCERNED AND INFORMED.) THIS SOLICITATION OF VIEWS IS INTENDED TO BE THE FIRST OF SEVERAL MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND SPECIFIC TALKS ON ISSUES RAISED IN THE UNDP PAPER.
- 5. ALTHOUGH THE FINAL VERSION OF THE UNDP PAPER WILL

NOT APPEAR FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FOLLOWING ARE AMONG THE ISSUES RAISED: (WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE PROVIDING LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN THIS CABLE. OUR INTENTION IS TO KEEP POSTS INFORMED AND TO GLEAN AS MUCH OF THE VIEWS OF RESREPS AND OTHERS AS POSSIBLE.) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- (A) THE PROBLEM OF EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK, OR HOW CAN UNDP CREATE A SYSTEM OF CIRCULAR LINKAGES IN WHICH LESSONS AND EXPERIENCE DERIVED FROM ONE PROJECT ARE APPLIED TO OTHER AND SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS;
- (B) THE PROBLEM OF COORDINATION, BOTH WITHIN HEAD-QUARTERS (I.E. RELATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES) AND IN THE FIELD (I.E., RE-INFORCING THE RESREP AS THE COORDINATOR AND TEAM LEADER OF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE);
- (C) FUTURE ROLES OF UNDP: IN COORDINATION AND ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SERVICES IN THE FIELD; CAN UNDP FIELD OFFICES COPE WITH SUCH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES?
- (D) THE QUESTION OF INCREASED RESOURCES: ARE THERE DIFFERENT WAYS OF ACHIEVING MORE DEPENDABLE FUNDING E.G., LONG-TERM CONTRIBUTIONS, ATTRACTING ADDITIONAL OPEC CONTRIBUTIONS, COST-SHARING BY RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS, ETC.
- (E) SHOULD THERE CONTINUE TO BE A SINGLE GENERAL UNDPFUND?
- 6. THE DEPT STUDY, ALTHOUGH ONLY IN A FORMULATIVE STAGE, ALSO EXAMINES CERTAIN RELATED ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE U.S. POSTS SHOULD BE ALERT TO THE POSSIBLE SENSITIVITY TO GOVERNMENTS OF SOME OF THESE ISSUES AND MAY WISH NOT TO DISCUSS THEM UNTIL A MORE DEFINITIVE POSITION HAS EMERGED FROM WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. AMONG THESE SENSITIVE ISSUES ARE:
- (A) SHOULD UNDP CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE UNIVERSALLY OR SHOULD IT FOCUS ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED& CAN UNDP COPE WITH THE MORE ADVANCED NEEDS OF THE MORE DEVELOPED LDC'S, AND WOULD SUCH LDC'S BE PREPARED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVE UNDP ASSISTANCE ON A COST REIMBURSABLE BASIS?

WOULD THIS REQUIRE MAJOR STRUCTURAL AND OPERATIONAL CHANGES WITHIN UNDP?

- (B) HOW CAN THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL CONTINUE TO COPE WITH THE OVERBURDENING PAPER WORK? IS THERE A NEED FOR A STANDING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE, AND A SINGLE YEARLY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL?
- (C) ARE WE STILL AS INTERESTED IN THE CURRENT FOCUS ON COUNTRY PROGRAMS OR SHOULD WE PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAMS?
- 7. POST MAY WISH TO FOLLOW FORMAT OF PARA FIVE IN RESPONSE OR MAY SUBMIT GENERAL COMMENTS. DEPT WILL PROVIDE FURTHER MATERIAL AS OUR STUDY PROGRESSES. TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF DEPT STUDY IS MAY 13.
- 8. POSTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DISCUSSIONS OF THE UNDP REPORT MAY LEAD TO INFERENCES THAT (A) THE US IS DISENCHANTED WITH UNDP; (B) A MAJOR US UNDERTAKING OR INITIATIVE IS UNDERWAY; OR (C) WE ARE TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE AUTHORITY OF UNDP HEADQUARTERS BY SOLICITING VIEWS FROM THE FIELD. NONE OF THESE INFERENCES IS ACCURATE. WE ARE MERELY INTERESTED IN KEEPING POSTS INFORMED OF DEPT THINKING AND IN DETERMINING THE DEGREE TO WHICH OTHERS ARE PREPARING FOR THE JUNE GC DISCUSSION. BECAUSE OF THESE POTENTIAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS, THEREFORE, POSTS ARE ACCORDED FULL DISCRETION ON HOW AND WHEN DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES TAKES PLACE.

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